

Message Text

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14
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PM-04 NSC-05

SP-02 SS-15 SAJ-01 MCT-01 /048 W
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R 291648Z SEP 76
FM AMCONSUL BELFAST
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1441
INFO AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USNAVCOMMSTA LONDONDERRY

UNCLAS BELFAST 344

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, UK, EI

SUBJECT: ARMY QUICK TRIGGERS

1. IN PAST WEEK BRITISH ARMY HAS SHOT AND WOUNDED FOUR CIVILIANS IN PROVINCE IN CIRCUMSTANCES THAT ARE UNCLEAR. FIRST WAS SHOOTING BY FOOT-PATROL OF YOUNG MAN IN TURF LODGE AREA BELFAST SEPTEMBER 22. SOLDIERS CLAIM VEHICLE YOUTH WAS DRIVING CRASHED ONE ROAD BLOCK AND THREATENED RUN OVER MEMBERS SECOND PATROL. EYE WITNESS DISPUTES THIS VERSION AND CLAIMS SOLDIERS TRIED TO MURDER DRIVER. A TRUCK DRIVER WAS SHOT IN COUNTY TYRONE AT AUGHNACLOY SEPTEMBER 27 AND A DUCK-HUNTER AND HIS DOG WERE WOUNDED BY A PATROL IN SOUTH ARMAGH. THE ARMY HAS ACKNOWLEDGED TRUCK-DRIVER SHOT WHEN WEAPON ACCIDENTALLY DISCHARGED AND ADMITTED ERROR RESULTING FROM BREAKDOWN IN COMMUNICATIONS CAUSED DUCK-HUNTER TO BE FIRED UPON. EARLY SEPTEMBER 29 A WOMAN SEATED IN PARKED CARE IN TROUBLED SUFFOLK/DUNMURRY AREA SOUTH BELFAST WAS SHOT TWICE BY PATROL WHO AIMING AT "GUNMAN". ALL VICTIMS ARE CATHOLICS. SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC AND LABOUR PARTY PRESSING FOR INVESTIGATION THESE INCIDENTS AS IS SIX COUNTY EXECUTIVE OF REPUBLICANS CLUBS (A POLITICAL GROUP NOT HOSTILE TO OFFICIAL IRA).

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2. THESE INCIDENTS ARE REGRETTABLE TO SAY THE LEAST. AT

THIS PARTICULAR TIME THEY HAVE TIMELY AND VALUABLE PROPAGANDA
VALUE FOR PROVISIONAL IRA AND COULD UNDERMINE PEACE MOVEMENT.
IT IS TO BE HOPED ARMY CAN ACHIEVE THE DELICATE BALANCE OF
MAINTAINING COUNTER-TERRORIST EFFECTIVENESS WIHTOUT EMBITTERING
THOSE WHO WANT AND ARE WORKING FOR AN END TO VIOLENCE.
SPICER

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Message Attributes

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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Draft Date: 29 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
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ISecure: 1
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